

# Nature Connections

News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • November/December 2013



## Here Today, Grown Tomorrow

Ask about any empty nest parent you know and they will tell you kids grow up too fast. One day they're in diapers and the next they're on their way to college. As the father of an eleven-year-old boy that's going on twenty-two, I couldn't agree more. It seems like it was just yesterday my wife and I were in the delivery room with him and today he's in middle school. Next thing you know, he'll be driving.

Recently I read where most youth by age thirteen have already selected what activities they will continue as adults. That can be scary information to a parent. Fortunately for me, I think I'm on track to expose my son to as many opportunities as I can so he can decide for himself. Although I'm sure I'm missing some things, one thing I've worked hard to show my son is how conservation makes Missouri a great place to hunt and fish. We have spent countless days in the woods and on the water. Throughout the past few years, my son Nicholas and I have been extremely fortunate, and while we don't believe you have to fill your permit to have a successful hunt, Nicholas has been lucky enough to Telecheck his fair share of game. Certainly more than Dad has over the same time span, which he often reminds me.

As I head into this fall's hunting season, I only have to look back to this past spring to see how the seeds I've planted are already taking root. It actually started in the winter soon after last deer season when we began to think about spring turkey hunting. Nicholas' best friend had expressed an interest in hunting so he asked me if we could take his buddy hunting. I told him, sure, but as always safety comes first and that only one could carry a gun at a time. This would mean he would have to give up his spot of shooting first to his friend. He told me that was just fine with him and it was more important for his buddy to get a bird than for him to get one. "Besides Dad, I've already shot a turkey before

and it is just as much fun to call one in as it is to shoot one," he said. I must admit, I grinned from ear to ear with pride when he said that.

As the season got closer we worked with his friend Race Looney on getting the right gear and becoming familiar with it. We spent time learning how to set up properly and how to shoot the gun along with where to aim on the animal. And perhaps one of the best things we did was watch a few hunting videos so his friend would have in mind what to expect. But most importantly, we discussed safety and how that was goal number one.

Well to make a long story short, Lady Luck was once again smiling on us last April. And thanks to spending time before the hunt working on what to do when a turkey came in, Race harvested a very nice adult gobbler at seven the first morning of youth season. And no one was prouder than my son Nicholas. He really took pride in the fact he had helped introduce another person to the sport of hunting just like I had done for him years earlier.

I guess kids do grow up fast and mine is no exception. He's already showing me he is entering the mentoring phase of our sport. Did I mention anything about a grin on my face and being proud of him? Oh, yeah, and just in case you're wondering, the very next morning



Nicholas Rose and Race Looney with Race's first turkey

Nicholas harvested a nice jake (juvenile turkey). What can I say, the boy is just covered up with good luck and great friends and that's about all any parent can wish for their child.

So as you head into this fall's hunting season, Nicholas and I challenge you to help someone **Discover Nature** for the first time. Who knows, it just might be the adventure that changes someone's life forever. Trust us, you'll be glad you did. Happy and safe hunting.

—Warren Rose

Outreach and Education Regional Supervisor

*Conservation makes Missouri a great place to hunt and fish.*

# Joplin Office in the Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center

201 W. Riviera Drive, Suite B, Joplin, MO 64804 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/292](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/292)



The Joplin Conservation Office, located in the Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center, is your local connection to Missouri's fish, forests, and wildlife. Stop by and purchase hunting and fishing permits, attend a nature program, go for a hike, enjoy a picnic, or access Shoal Creek. Within the 190 acres of Wildcat Park, you will find a diverse mix of wildlife habitats rich with flora and fauna. From I-44, take exit 6, and turn south on MO-86. Turn right on Riviera Drive to enter Wildcat Park.

#### HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM  
Closed all state holidays.  
Audubon Center hours vary.

#### TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 417-629-3423 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

## November and December Events

### Campfire Cooking With Kids

November 9 • Saturday • 3–5 PM  
Walter Woods Conservation Area (Joplin)  
*Registration required (families)*  
Calling all kids! Learn how to cook outside over the campfire. Parents, discover fun and tasty ways to cook a meal with your kids. We will be stirring up and tasting several delicious dishes while enjoying the out-of-doors.

### Short-eared Owl Hike

December 14 • Saturday • 4–6 PM  
Shawnee Trail Conservation Area (Mindenmines)  
*Registration required (ages 8 and up)*  
Join us for a naturalist-led hike to search for these special winter residents. Discover the short-eared owl and other birds of prey as the sun sets on a local conservation area.

## — Are You Planting Trees This Year? —

Trees are often taken for granted, maligned, abused, and ignored until they are gone, but we need trees for many things. For most of us, the first thing we think in relation to trees is the relaxing feeling they invoke. Author Minnie Aumonier gracefully stated, "There is always Music amongst the trees in the Garden, but our hearts must be very quiet to hear it."

For most people the trees closest to their heart are the ones in their yard or those at a local park. Not only do these trees have personal significance, they provide many tangible benefits. But for you to enjoy these trees and benefits, someone probably planted and cared for them. For future generations to have and enjoy trees, we need to plant more. Nelson Henderson, author, stated, "The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit." Tree planting is thinking to the future to make it better. All of us can do this.

There are many reasons to plant trees—beautify a yard, create wildlife habitat, reduce erosion, filter and shade water along a stream bank, timber and Christmas tree production, and many more. All are important and provide benefits individually, environmentally, and socially.

**How do you get trees to plant?** The Missouri Department of Conservation provides low-cost seedlings. These come in small and large quantities to meet your needs. As few as ten seedlings of one species may be ordered for less than \$2 a seedling plus tax and handling. Heritage Card holders can receive a 15 percent discount up to \$20 on orders. Seedlings are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. The order forms (paper and online) will become available in November. You may then order your seedlings, but send no payment at that time. The nursery will see if your request can be met, then send a bill. If your desired seedling is sold out, the nursery may possibly suggest an alternative species. Seedlings are shipped or may be picked up at the George O. White Nursery in Licking, Missouri, between February and May.

—Jon Skinner, Urban Forester

## — Tree Pruning Workshops —

**November 12 • Tuesday • 6:30–8:30 PM •** Greenfield Community Building in City Park (corner of Park Street and Toney Avenue)

**November 14 • Thursday • 6:30–8:30 PM •** City Hall Council Chambers, 319 East Dallas Street, Mount Vernon (entrance off east parking lot)

**November 19 • Tuesday • 6:30–8:30 PM •** Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, 201 W. Riviera Dr (Wildcat Park), Joplin

Register by calling 417-629-3423 (Ages 10 and up) Properly guiding a young tree with pruning will help it develop a desirable shape and improve long-term health. Older trees often only need light pruning to remove dead branches and poor structure. Learn the difference by attending one of the *Tree Pruning Workshops* near you.



# Andy Dalton Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

4897 N. Farm Road 61, Ash Grove, MO 65604 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/288](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/288)

## November and December Events

### Cross Trail Outfitters

November 21 • Thursday • 6–8 PM and December 19 • Thursday • 6–8 PM

Registration required (ages 7–17)

Join the families of Cross Trail Outfitters and learn all sorts of techniques for hunting and different outdoor activities. This program is designed for youth ages 7–17, but the parents will have fun learning too. For more information or to register, email Kirk Bouse at [<kkbouse@teamcto.org>](mailto:kkbouse@teamcto.org).

### DEER RIFLE SIGHT-IN DAYS

From November 1 through November 15, the range will be open daily from 9am to 4:30pm so hunters can use the range for sighting in their deer rifles. We will have a bore sighting system to loan to save on your ammunition costs. No registration required and regular range rules and fees apply



Prepare for deer season now

### Are you ready for deer season?

The nights are getting cooler, trees are changing color, and the smell of fall is in the air. For most people, these are signs autumn is here. For some people, this means time to make a trip to their local shooting range before going out into the woods and sitting for hours waiting for that big buck. Here are some quick and easy tips for making sure you are ready for this big moment.

**Scope mounts:** While having a good scope is a great accessory to your gun, the scope will not be of much use if it moves every time you shoot the firearm. Double check the scope mounts and make sure all of the screws are tight and in place and that the scope mounts are the right mounts for your scope.

**Bore sight:** To save time and ammunition when you first get to the range, use a bore-sighting system to adjust the scope on your rifle. Bore sighting your rifle means you are making sure the crosshairs are aligned with where you want to hit your target. Though bore sighting is not a sure thing, it can save you time and ammo and bring you closer to your goal of a quick, clean kill.

**Aiming:** After using a bore-sighting system to line up your sights, set your target at 25 yards. Using a shooting rest, aim for one spot on your target and shoot three times. After your shots, look at your scope to see how to adjust it accordingly. On your next group of shots, aim for the same place. Once you have zeroed it in at the 25-yard line, start moving it back 25 yards at a time, re-zeroing it each 25 yards until you reach the yardage to which you would like to have your sights set.

**Ammunition:** Make sure you have the correct ammo for your firearm. Check on the ammo itself to make sure it matches both the barrel and the box. It's a good idea to practice shooting with the ammo that you plan to use while hunting. There are several different kinds of ammo available for different calibers of rifles. Try a variety of ammo to find what type your rifle fires the best.

**Shooting:** After finding the correct ammo for your rifle and zeroing it in, practice shooting the way you will be shooting in the field. If you plan on using a bipod or tripod when you hunt, take it with you to the range and shoot a few rounds with it.

**Deer kill zone:** Keep in mind when you have a perfect broadside shot on a deer, your kill zone will be a circle about 8 to 9 inches in diameter. However, if the deer is quartering away from you, the kill zone shrinks by half and changes from a circle to an oval in shape.

**Scout:** Check out the area you plan to hunt before opening week. Look for signs that there are deer in or around the area. Identify shooting lanes based on where you will be shooting and facing. Make sure you know your target and surroundings. This is crucial before taking the safety off and shooting your firearm.

**Check rules and regulations:** Changes in rules and regulations can happen yearly. Make sure you know what has changed and how to apply the new regulations so you'll be ready for deer season.

—Ali Underwood, Resource Assistant

November 28 • Thanksgiving and December 25 • Christmas **Holiday Closings**



To get to the Andy Dalton Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center, take US Highway 160 west of Willard, turn south on Farm Road 61, and go 2.5 miles, facility on the west side of road. Facilities include an outdoor education center and archery, rifle, pistol, and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

### HOURS:

**November 14–April 14**

Monday and Thursday: 9 AM–4:30 PM

Friday–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM

**April 15–November 13**

Monday: 9 AM–4:30 PM

Thursday: 9 AM–7:30 PM

Friday–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Tuesdays, Wednesdays and all state holidays. Hours are subject to change.

### FACILITIES AND FEES:

Available for individual and group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range fee: \$3 per booth per hour
- Trap/skeet range fee: \$3 per person per round of 25 clay targets
- Shotgun patterning range: \$3 per person per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour
- Group use fee: \$20 per hour plus \$3 per round of 25 clay targets

### TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 417-742-4361 or email [<DaltonRange@mdc.mo.gov>](mailto:DaltonRange@mdc.mo.gov) to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.



# Springfield Conservation Nature Center

4601 S. Nature Center Way, Springfield, MO 65804 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/287](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/287)



The Springfield Conservation Nature Center is located in southeast Springfield just west of US-65 off the James River Freeway (US-60). Indoors, enjoy nature exhibits, attend programs, purchase hunting and fishing permits, browse through a nature-related gift shop, and pick up free conservation brochures. Outdoors, enjoy three miles of hiking trails through a variety of natural communities. Call to schedule a naturalist-led program for your organized group.

## CURRENT HOURS:

**November 1–February 29**

**Building:** Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM  
Closed Sunday and Monday

**Trails:** Sunday–Saturday: 8 AM–6 PM

The building, area, and trails are closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days.

## TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 417-888-4237 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to others.

## November Events

### Nature And The Arts These Ozarks Hills

#### An Evening with Marideth Sisco

November 8 • Friday • 7–8 PM

*Registration begins October 15 (ages 15 and up)*

Noted singer, storyteller, and amateur folklorest Marideth Sisco offers a contextual view of the unique character of the Ozarks landscape, its often overlooked place in both human and natural history, and its various and often peculiar denizens. Sisco weaves a story from the threads of her experience and observations to create a multi-dimensional view of a land whose character is derived from a tapestry of actions and inactions, inheritances and violences, and whose essence is both fragile and as tough as the ironwood and Osage orange, the bow-wood from which it gets its name, the Aux Arcs. Join her for an unforgettable evening.

## November Events

### Hiking Club

November 9 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM

*Registration begins November 1 (ages 18 and up)*

Enjoy a hike through the Mark Twain National Forest at Noblett Lake with Volunteer Naturalist Mike Mihalik. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Bring a sack lunch and water and wear comfortable hiking shoes. **Hike is five miles and rated moderate to difficult.**

### Trail Trivia

November 9 • Saturday • 9 AM–4 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Spend a couple of hours hiking and testing your nature knowledge. Trek our trails and answer nature-related questions along the way. Stop by the nature center to pick up a question sheet and then return to check your answers and claim your prize.

### Creating Nature Art

November 9 • Saturday • 10–11:30 AM

*Registration begins November 1 (ages 5–7, kindergarten to second grade)*

November 9 • Saturday • 1–2:30 PM

*(ages 8–12, third to fifth grade)*

Find artistic inspiration in nature's colors, trees, and the harvest of the fall season. Join art instructor Janel Bagby and learn how to create your own nature-inspired art by painting birdhouses and creating mosaics on flowerpots.

### Story Time With Ms. Ladybug

November 12 • Tuesday • 11–11:30 AM

*No registration required (ages 2–6)*

**NOTE: This is a different day than usual.**

Join Volunteer Naturalist Joyce Tolliver as she reads a nature story and shares activities with your 2–6 year olds. Please, no organized groups.

### Cougars In Missouri

November 12 • Tuesday • 7–8 PM

*Registration begins November 1 (ages 12 and up)*

Reports of mountain lion sightings in Missouri have been confirmed in recent years. These large predators, once gone from Missouri, are creating lots of excitement—both positive and negative—with their appearances. Conservation Department Wildlife Damage Biologist James Dixon returns to share biological information about cougars and to separate fact from fiction about these fascinating large cats.

### Prune Like A Pro

November 14 • Thursday • 10–11 AM

*Registration begins November 1 (ages 18 and up)*

Join Conservation Department Urban Forester Cindy Garner to learn easy-to-do pruning techniques as well as tips on hiring professionals for the “big job.”

### Nature And The Arts—An Evening With Carter And Connelley

November 15 • Friday • 7–8:30 PM

*Registration begins October 15 (ages 8 and up)*

Singer/songwriters Curt Carter and Tom Connelley have been performing and recording original acoustic guitar music highlighting their love of the natural world since 1988. Their music—ranging from rock to bluegrass—combined with spoken interludes, demonstrates their love of the earth and family. They are educators who share both a passion for and knowledge about nature. They call it “environmental music with a message.” You’ll call it fun and inspirational. Check out their website at [carterandconnelley.com](http://carterandconnelley.com).

### Badge Bonanza

November 19 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

*Registration begins November 1 (ages 6 and up)*

Attention all scouting and youth organizations! You won’t want to miss this program on birds that will help you earn nature badges. Play some games and do fun activities that will help you learn about bird migration and identification. Program is also open to the public.

### Nature And The Arts—Through The Lens Of Adam Jones

November 21 • Thursday • 7–8 PM

*Registration begins November 1 (ages 15 and up)*

Explore the beauty of nature through high quality photographic images by world class photographer Adam Jones. Hear his narration on the scenes along with photography tips and techniques on making world class images. This program, sponsored by Canon and cosponsored locally by the Southwest Missouri Camera Club, covers a wide range of photographic interests—wildlife, landscapes, abstracts, and the often unseen close-up world viewed through a macro lens.

### Conservation TEEN Club Building A Wren House

November 22 • Friday • 6–7:30 PM

*Registration begins November 1 (ages 12–17)*

Come and enjoy an evening building wren houses for you to take home. This is a great activity and will give something back to the wildlife we enjoy. Snacks and drinks will be provided. We will have the woodworking tools, unless you want to bring hand tools. (Please, no power tools.)

### Winter Tree ID

November 23 • Saturday • 9–11 AM

*Registration begins November 1 (ages 12 and up)*

Identifying trees in winter requires know-how and an eye for detail. Dress for the outdoors as Volunteer Naturalist Earl Niewald helps you get to know trees without their leaves.

## Temporary Exhibits

November • 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibits • December • Nature Photography by Stephanie Myette  
At the Speed of Light Photography

# Springfield Conservation Nature Center

4601 S. Nature Center Way, Springfield, MO 65804 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/287](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/287)

## December Events

### Beginner Archery For Women

November 23 • Saturday • 9 AM–NOON

*Registration begins November 1 (Girls ages 14-17 accompanied by an adult female are welcome)*

You don't have to be a hunter to become a skilled archer. Learn a new skill and spend time practicing at the Andy Dalton Shooting Range at the Bois D'Arc Conservation Area. No experience is necessary and archery equipment will be provided. Meet at the range. This program is for women only.

### Attracting Backyard Birds With The Family

November 23 • Saturday • 10:30 AM–NOON

*Registration begins November 1 (ages 6 and up)*

Parents, grandparents, and adult mentors, bring your youngster(s) to learn how to attract birds to your yard, how to identify them, and then work together to assemble your own bird feeder to take home.

### For Adults Only–Beginner Archery

November 23 • Saturday • 1–4 PM

*Registration begins November 1 (ages 18 and up)*

You don't have to be a hunter to become a skilled archer. Learn a new skill and spend time practicing at the Andy Dalton Shooting Range at the Bois D'Arc Conservation Area. No experience is necessary and archery equipment will be provided. Meet at the range.

### Ozark Whittlers & Woodcarvers

November 30 • Saturday • 10 AM–4 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Stop by to see members of the Ozark Whittlers & Woodcarvers transform wood into treasures.

### Building, area, and trails closed:

November 28 • Thanksgiving

December 25 • Christmas

January 1 • New Year's Day

## December Events

### Nature And The Arts–An Evening With Tim Ernst

December 6 • Friday • 5–6 PM OR 7–8 PM

*Registration begins November 19 (ages 12 and up)*

Before or after taking a stroll outdoors, enjoy the scenic photography of nationally known nature photographer Tim Ernst as he returns to share images set to music from his latest publication—*Buffalo River Beauty*. Tim will be available for book signing from 6-7pm and 8-9pm. For more information visit Tim's website at <[TimErnst.com](http://TimErnst.com)>.

### Evening Stroll

December 6 • Friday • 6–9 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Enjoy a crackling fire, sip hot chocolate, and browse through the gift shop when you come indoors to get warm. The trails will be open and patrolled, so bring a flashlight and a walking partner because you're on your own.

### Hiking Club

December 7 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM

*Registration begins December 3 (ages 18 and up)*

While known for its trout fishing, Roaring River State Park also has an array of hiking trails. Volunteer Naturalist Pat Stritzel will help you become familiar with their trail system. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Bring a sack lunch and water and wear comfortable hiking shoes. **Hike is five miles and rated moderate to difficult.**

### Conservation TEEN Club–Shooting 22s

December 7 • Saturday • 9 AM–NOON

*Registration begins December 3 (ages 12–17)*

Learn how to shoot 22-caliber rifles at the Andy Dalton Shooting Range at the Bois D'Arc Conservation Area. After classroom discussion, it is out to the range to practice and test your skills. So whether you're a beginner or an expert shot, meet at the range and enjoy the fun! Refreshments will be provided.

### Conservation Kids' Club Holiday Crafts For Kids

December 10 • Tuesday • 6–8 PM

*Registration begins December 3 (ages 7–12)*

Hey, kids! Here's your chance to make some presents out of natural and recycled items. Drop by anytime and plan to spend at least an hour. Bring an empty toilet paper tube, a sock, a sack to carry your crafts, and lots of creativity. All other items will be provided. Please, no younger siblings and only one adult per group of kids.

### Story Time With Ms. Ladybug

December 11 • Wednesday • 11–11:30 AM

*No registration required (Ages 2–6)*

Join Volunteer Naturalist Joyce Tolliver as she reads a nature story and shares activities with your 2–6 year olds. Please, no organized groups.

### Natural Holiday Crafts

December 14 • Saturday • 10 AM–3 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Stop by anytime to make some simple holiday ornaments from natural materials. We'll supply the materials, kids bring the creativity, and parents provide the guidance.

### Conservation TEEN Club Year-End Review

December 19 • Thursday • 7–8:30 PM

*Registration begins December 3 (ages 12–17)*

Join us as we celebrate the close of another successful year of TEEN Club. After viewing photos of the year's outings, we'll enjoy cake and vote on possible TEEN Club outings for 2014. Prospective and current members ages 12–17 and their families are welcome to attend.

### Winter Bird Walk

December 26 • Thursday • 11 AM–NOON

*No registration required (ages 7 and up)*

Dress warmly and join us for a winter bird walk. Bring binoculars and a bird field guide if you have them.

### Animal Bingo

December 27 • Friday • 1–2 PM

December 31 • Tuesday • 2:30–3:30 PM

*No registration required (ages 5 and up)*

Put your nature knowledge to task as you and your family participate in *Animal Bingo*. Learn new facts and win prizes.

### Snakes of Missouri

December 31 • Tuesday • 1–2 PM

*No registration required (ages 5 and up)*

Sometimes they startle us, but snakes always fascinate us. Learn about this often misunderstood reptile, see snakes up close, and even touch one!

### Little Acorns

Please limit to one per month.

Programs are 45 minutes in length.

## November Events

*Registration begins November 1 (ages 3–6)*

### Wonderful Whitetails

November 7 • Thursday • 11 AM or 1:30 PM

We all know Bambi but what do you know about real deer? Where do they live? What do they eat? Come in for some antler-related antics and learn some of the wonders of the whitetails.

### Raccoon Ramblings

November 15 • Friday • 11 AM or 1:30 PM

November 16 • Saturday • 11 AM

Raccoons are clever nighttime animals. Bring your favorite Big Person and learn more about these critters!

### Turkey Talk

November 22 • Friday • 11 AM or 1:30 PM

Where do wild turkeys live and what do they eat? Which turkeys have beards? What sounds do they make? We'll discover the answers to these questions and more. Gobble! Gobble!

## December Events

### Backyard Birds In Winter

December 4 • Wednesday • 11 AM or 1:30 PM

December 7 • Saturday • 11 AM

*Registration begins November 19 (age 3–6)*

Learn about the backyard birds of winter and discover ways to attract them to your yard.

### Furry Scurry

December 20 • Friday • 11 AM or 1:30 PM

December 21 • Saturday • 11 AM

*Registration begins December 3 (age 3–6)*

If you're furry, you don't need to worry about a cold winter flurry. Want to know why? Then hurry to the nature center for this program on mammals and their fur.

# Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery and Conservation Center

483 Hatchery Road, Branson, MO 65616 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/290](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/290)



The Fish Hatchery and Conservation Center is located on 221 acres in Branson off Highway 165 next to Table Rock Dam. Outdoors, visitors will experience an active fish hatchery with 700,000 rainbow and brown trout in 30 pools with opportunities to feed the fish. Indoors, enjoy a 3,500 gallon aquarium and hands-on nature exhibits and purchase hunting and fishing permits. The area also features four hiking trails, a picnic area, a boat ramp, and access to Lake Taneycomo.

## **FACILITY HOURS:**

### **Memorial Day–Labor Day**

Sunday–Saturday: 9 AM–6 PM

### **Remainder of Year**

Sunday–Saturday: 9 AM–5 PM

## **AREA AND TRAIL HOURS:**

4 AM–10 PM

The area is open to fishing 24 hours daily, but special permits and regulations do apply. Check the current fishing regulations or call for details.

## **TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:**

Programs are free. Call 417-334-4865, Ext. 0, to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

## **FISHING**

### **LAKE TANEYCOMO:**

Before fishing on Lake Taneycomo, become familiar with the regulations and restrictions. Come by for a free brochure of the entire lake including fishing accesses. For specific details about trout fishing here and across the state, visit [mdc.mo.gov/node/5603](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/5603).

## *November and December Events*

### **Oh, Deer!**

November 9 • Saturday • 10 AM–NOON

*Registration required (ages 12 and up)*

This is an interactive activity to learn how deer interact with their environment and the importance of managing our deer populations for the benefit of nature and humans. Participants will have fun with this activity as they learn to feed, drink, and find shelter like real deer.

### **Bird Feeder Workshop**

December 14 • Saturday • 10–11:30 AM

*Registration required (families)*

This is our annual workshop for families to build their own wooden bird feeder. Each family will be able to build one “hopper-style” bird feeder to take home. In addition to putting together the pre-cut and pre-drilled feeder, you will learn about the best types of seed to put into the feeder to maximize your winter bird watching. Bring a hammer.

## *Turkey Time*

This time of year we tend to take more notice of turkeys. More thought is made of their taste during the holidays than their beauty or behavior. But do we really know the turkey? Here are some cool facts about turkeys that you can “digest” during your family festivities.

**Names:** Adult males = toms      Adult females = hens  
Juvenile males = jakes      Juvenile females = jennies.  
Very young birds = poults      A group of turkeys = a rafter or a flock.

**Feathers:** There are roughly 5,500 feathers on an adult wild turkey, including 18 tail feathers. Wild turkeys can fly up to 55 miles per hour and run at speeds of 25 miles per hour.

**Eyesight:** Wild turkeys see color and have excellent day vision (3 times better than a human’s). Their eyesight covers 270 degrees, but they have poor vision at night.

**Diet:** Turkeys are omnivorous—which means they can eat both plants and small animals. This includes grains, grass, berries, insects, and small reptiles. Precocial (able to fend for themselves after birth) hatchlings leave the nest within a day to forage for food with mom. Male wild turkeys make little effort in raising the young.

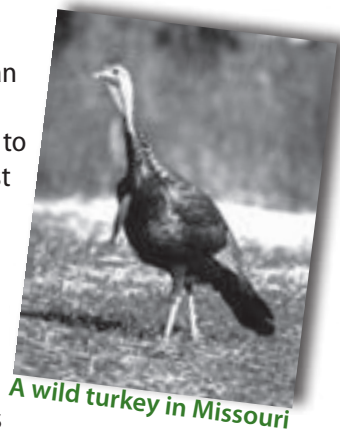
**Lifespan:** The normal age for an adult averages 3 to 5 years. The oldest record for a wild turkey was 13 years old.

**Cousins:** There are five distinct subspecies of wild turkey—the Eastern, Osceola, Rio Grande, Merriam’s and Gould’s.

**American History:** Founding father Benjamin Franklin preferred the wild turkey (not the bald eagle) to be the United States National Symbol because of its proud demeanor, protective instincts, and more “moral” characteristics than the eagle that scavenges and robs from other birds for its food.

**Strong Tradition:** At one point, wild turkeys were nearly extinct due to habitat loss and market hunting. Today, the estimate is 7 million birds nationwide thanks to ethical sportsmen and sound conservation efforts.

— John Miller, Interpretive Center Manager



November 28 • Thanksgiving and December 25 • Christmas **\_\_ Holiday Closings**



# Southwest Regional Office

2630 N. Mayfair Avenue, Springfield, MO 65803 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/257](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/257)

## Hunter Education Changes

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is making changes with the Hunter Education program. Hunters born on or after January 1, 1967, must have completed an approved Hunter Education program and display Hunter Education certification to buy any type of firearms hunting permit. You must be at least 11 years old to participate or to be certified. (Exceptions to the Hunter Education requirements are listed on Page 2 of the *2013 Summary of Missouri Hunting and Trapping Regulations*, available from permit vendors or at [<mdc.mo.gov/node/11416>](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/11416).)

MDC recently revised the Hunter Education curriculum to enhance student convenience and emphasize mentorship and hands-on training. The new, more flexible program is divided into two parts—a **knowledge portion** and a **skills portion**. ***ALL students must successfully complete both portions and pass the skills final exam before they can receive Hunter Education certification***

The **knowledge portion** provides information about hunting equipment, safety, and ethics. This knowledge can be acquired one of three ways—through an online course (\$15 fee applies), a four-hour classroom session, or a self-paced Hunter Education Study Guide (student manual). A student manual can be requested by going to [<mdc.mo.gov/node/23045>](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/23045) or by contacting the Southwest Regional Office, Springfield Conservation Nature Center, Andy Dalton Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center, Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery and Conservation Center, or the Joplin Office in the Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center.

The **skills portion** consists of a four-hour, hands-on skills session followed by a 35-question, multiple-choice final exam. All students must bring their classroom session or online course Skills Session Qualifier Certificate or the student manual with all chapter review questions answered. They must also bring proof of identification or a birth certificate. Students 15 years of age or younger must be accompanied by an adult or guardian.

Also note, students wishing to take a four-hour classroom session and then a skills session ***must register separately for each session even if they are at the same location on the same day***. For more information on Hunter Education, contact your local MDC office or visit [<mdc.mo.gov/node/3095>](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/3095).



The Southwest Regional Office is conveniently located just west of the intersection of US-65 and Kearney in Springfield. The public may obtain information on land management, nuisance wildlife, educational opportunities, river and pond management, and more, as well as purchase hunting and fishing permits and obtain area brochures for Conservation Department areas.

**HOURS:** Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM  
Closed all state holidays

**PHONE:** 417-895-6880

– Warren Rose, Outreach and Education Regional Supervisor

### Fall Firearms \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Deer Hunting

**Early Youth Portion:**  
November 2–3

**November Portion:**  
November 16–26; open statewide

**Antlerless Portion:**  
November 27–December 8; check locations in the 2013 Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information

**Alternative Methods Portion:**  
December 21–31; open statewide

**Late Youth Portion:**  
January 4–5, 2014; open statewide

Pick up a copy of the *2013 Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information*

## Hunter Education Sessions

### Classroom Sessions

| Location                                     | Date/Time                     |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Andy Dalton Shooting Range .....             | November 1 • Friday • 6–10 PM |
| Springfield Conservation Nature Center ..... | November 1 • Friday • 6–10 PM |
| Andy Dalton Shooting Range .....             | December 6 • Friday • 6–10 PM |

### Skills Sessions

| Location                                     | Date/Time                        |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Andy Dalton Shooting Range .....             | November 2 • Saturday • 8AM–NOON |
| Springfield Conservation Nature Center ..... | November 2 • Saturday • 8AM–NOON |
|  | November 2 • Saturday • 1–5PM    |
| Andy Dalton Shooting Range .....             | December 7 • Saturday • 8AM–NOON |
| Springfield Conservation Nature Center ..... | December 14 • Saturday • 1–5PM   |

Visit [<mdc.mo.gov/node/3722>](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/3722) to register for these sessions and to check for session changes and/or additions.



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and  
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Missouri Department of Conservation



## Nature Connections Newsletter

To begin receiving the newsletter by mail, call any of the offices listed in the newsletter and leave your name and address.

To begin receiving the newsletter electronically by e-mail, go to <mdc.mo.gov/node/257>, click the "Subscribe by Email" box on the right-hand side of the page, and scroll down to "Nature Connections."

## Conservation Area Showcase:

### Holland State Forest

**LOCATION:** Holland State Forest is located in Stone County north of the town of Ponce de Leon. From the town of Ponce de Leon (at the intersection of Medical Springs Road and Hwy V), travel east on Hwy V, 0.4 miles. Turn left and go north on Pleasant View Road 1.3 miles to Great View Road. Turn left and go west 0.8 miles to the parking lot on the left or south side of the road. Holland State Forest consists mainly of typical upland oak-hickory forest. It is made up of two 80-acre rectangular tracts that run lengthwise east to west and are joined at the southeast and northwest corners. A wet-weather creek flows diagonally through the two tracts. Holland State Forest is smaller and not as well-known as other hunting areas.

**HISTORY:** This state forest was graciously donated by Robert and Delores Holland in 1989. Holland State Forest is one of the few conservation areas in the state that was not renamed a "Conservation Area." The community of Ponce de Leon was first established as a health resort community in the late 1870s during the time that mineral water springs were thought to have health benefits. Ponce de Leon has three springs that converge in or near the town. At one time the community had a population of over a thousand people.

**FISHING:** No fishing opportunities exist on the area. The area does have two small intermittent streams, but they do not support fish.

**HUNTING:** Holland State Forest is open to statewide regulations for hunting. See the area regulations for more specific restrictions regarding portable tree stands, blinds, and decoys. Deer, turkey, and squirrel hunting are popular on the area as well as mushroom hunting in the spring.

**HIKING AND CAMPING:** There are no designated hiking trails, but hiking is permitted on the service roads which are mainly along the perimeter of the area. Camping is not permitted.

**NATURE STUDY:** The combination of woodland, glade, and temporary creek habitat makes for good nature study and photography.

For more information about Holland State Forest, visit the website at <mdc.mo.gov/a9011>.

— Greg Cassell, Resource Forester

## Project FeederWatch

Not only are we watching the winter birds at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center, but we're counting them too. As participants in Cornell University's Project FeederWatch, staff and volunteers will keep track of the numbers of each bird species found at the nature center's feeders from late fall through spring. Come out and join us. Count if you like or just enjoy watching the birds.

### Count Dates

| 2013        | 2014          |
|-------------|---------------|
| Nov 12 & 13 | Jan 7 & 8     |
| Nov 26 & 27 | Jan 21 & 22   |
| Dec 10 & 11 | Feb 4 & 5     |
|             | Feb 18 & 19   |
|             | March 4 & 5   |
|             | March 18 & 19 |
|             | April 1 & 2   |

